



NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Leslie Bassett Inaugurates Infrastructure Projects in Zamboanga City and Basilan

Walking long distances to fetch water for bathing, washing and cleaning will become a thing of the past for approximately 3,500 residents of two barangays who will benefit from a joint water supply and sanitation project of the U.S. Government and Rotary International. On October 8, in a ceremony held at Barangay Lumbangan Elementary School, U.S. Embassy Manila’s Chargé d’Affaires Leslie Bassett, along with the former president of Rotary Club Zamboanga City West Emilio Aquino, led the inauguration of the water supply projects in Barangays Lumbangan and Lumayang, Zamboanga City.

“Worldwide, lack of access to clean water often leads to diarrhea, the second leading cause of death among children under the age of five. As a parent, I find it heart-breaking that children should die of a cause that can easily be prevented,” Chargé Bassett said.

Launched in 2009, the Water Alliance Program of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Rotary International aims to provide clean water to communities in need, which include Barangays Lumbangan and Lumayang. The total cost of the project is P19 million. The USAID and Rotary Club resources were augmented by technical and engineering resource contribution from the Zamboanga City Water District and right-of-way from the City Government.

Ms. Bassett then headed to Basilan and led the turn-over ceremony of a two-classroom school building at Caddayan Elementary School in Akbar town. Marine Brig. Gen. Eugenio Clemen and Basilan Provincial Engineer Tahir Ismael Latip represented the Philippine Government during the turn-over ceremony.

The school project, worth P879,000, was constructed by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines with support and funding from the Joint Special Operations Task Force after the school was burned down in a post-election violence.

In Basilan, the Chargé also unveiled the Busay and Bañas Bridges, in Isabela City and Lantawan respectively, which were built through funding from the U.S. Government and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Mindanao Development Authority Chairman Luwalhati Antonino, Basilan Governor Jum Jainuddin Akbar, Isabela City Mayor Cherrylyn Santos-Akbar, and Lantawan Mayor Rustam Ismael participated in the ceremony.

The construction cost of the Busay and Banas bridges were P6.2 million and P 6.6 million respectively, of which the ARMM government contributed over 25 percent.

“We hope that the successful completion of these projects will inspire others to do what many people of Basilan have already done – to work for the economic growth and peaceful development of this beautiful island,” Ms. Bassett said.

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**Caddayan Elementary School
Before**



After

